

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 26, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 26, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-44 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-44 are rejected. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Bearden* (U.S. Patent 6,167,965). In the rejection, the Examiner wrote: "Regarding claims 1 and 15, *Bearden* discloses ... a flow controller (Fig. 1A, element 27; i.e., a check valve) disposed in the fluid outlet line (Fig. 1A), control unit (Fig. 1M, element 411) ... configured to control operation of the flow controller ... and ... issue a control signal to the flow controller (column 11, line 15 to column 13, line 51)." Further, in the rejection of claim 5, the Examiner wrote: "*Bearden* discloses the flow controller is gate style pressure valve (column 5, lines 54-55; Fig. 1A, element 27)."

Respectfully, *Bearden* does not disclose a feedback system, comprising "a flow controller disposed in the fluid line; and a control unit ... configured to control operation of the flow controller" of claim 1 or a feedback system, comprising "a flow controller disposed in the fluid outlet line; ... and a control unit ... configured to ... issue a control signal to the flow controller" of claim 15. Member 27 of *Bearden* is a check valve. Member 25 of *Bearden* is a drain valve. (See *Bearden*, col. 5, lines 54-57; Fig. 1A.) Member 411 of *Bearden* is not configured to control the operation of or issue a control signal to either of members 25 or 27. Member 411 of *Bearden* issues commands to member 412. (See *Bearden*, col. 7, lines 58-62; col. 9, lines 23-30; col. 9, line 65-col. 10, line 55; col. 12, lines 50-55; col. 13 lines 10-17; col. 13, lines 39-43; Fig. 1M.) Therefore, claims 1 and 15 are patentable over *Bearden*. Claims 2-14 and 16-25 are also patentable over *Bearden* since they depend from claims 1 and 15, respectively.

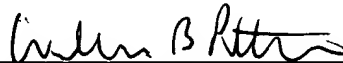
Claims 26-44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bearden*. Respectfully, *Bearden* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a method,

comprising "outputting a flow control signal to a flow controller" of claims 26, 34, or 44. As noted above, *Bearden's* controller (member 411) outputs a motor control signal to a motor controller (member 412). Therefore, claims 26, 34, and 44 are patentable over *Bearden*. Claims 27-33 and 35-43 are also patentable over *Bearden* since they depend from claims 26 and 34, respectively.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)